Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 IGA-02 /050 W ------231355Z 016154 /44

R 231248Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA
DIA WASHDC

SECRETJIDDA 0586

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 1. DURING A MEETING WITH AMB PORTER IN RIYADH ON JAN 19, SAG MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN STATED THAT THE USMTM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND WAS READY FOR SIGNATURE. HE ADDED THAT THE MOU SHOULD REACH AMB PORTER WITHIN TWO DAYS. ARTICLE 8 OF THEM MOU WAS UNCHANGED FROM PROVISIONS OF 1953 AGREEMENT SULTAN INDICATED, BUT WAS SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION.
- 2. AMB PORTER PASSED PRINCE SULTAN THE US PROPOSAL FOR THE MOU IN THE FORM OF A DRAFT NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SAID THAT THE NOTES COULD BE IN WHATEVER FORM HRH AND THE SAG WISHED, BUT THAT HE HOPED THE MOU COULD BE SETTLED BEFORE HRH CROWN PRINCE FAHD VISITED THE U.S. SULTAN EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT THE MOU SHOULD BE IN THE PROPER FORMAT DICTATED BY PROTOCOL AND DIPLOMACY AND REITER-ACTED THAT IT WOULD STATE THAT ARTICLE 8 WAS SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION.
- 3. COMMENT: MINDEF SULTAN'S EMPHASIS ON ARTICLE 8 UNDERLINES SECRET

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HIS VIEW THAT U.S. MILITARY IN-COUNTRY DO NOT REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL IMMUNITY. SULTAN OBVIOUSLY FEELS THE USMTM MOU SHOULD BE THE BASIC AGREEMENT OR MODEL FOR AGREEMENTS WITH ALL DOD AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

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